

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 1 through 43 without prejudice.

Please add new claims 44 through 88:

44. (new) A method that implements a remote telephone extension over a packet data network, said packet data network communicatively coupling a remote telephone interface to a telephone interface control system, wherein said telephone interface control system further comprises:

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a) a first telephone interface for external connection;
b) a switched call control system (SCCS) that communicates to said remote telephone interface over said packet data network, wherein, said SCCS maintains control over a second telephone interface;

said method comprising:

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a) detecting a ring signal at said first telephone interface;
b) indicating to said SCCS at said second telephone interface that said ring signal is appearing at said first telephone interface; and
c) initiating a call over said packet data network, from said SCCS to said remote telephone interface; while, maintaining said first telephone interface in an on-hook state.

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45. (new) The method of claim 44 wherein said first telephone interface is an FXO interface.

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46. (new) The method of claim 44 wherein said SCCS emulates a device that is tie-lined to said remote telephone interface.

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47. (new) The method of claim 46 wherein said call is implemented with a Private Line Automatic Ringdown (PLAR) call.

48. (new) The method of claim 46 wherein said SCCS also initiates an off-hook signal at said second telephone interface in response to said indicating.

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49. (new) The method of claim 44 wherein said SCCS also initiates an off-hook signal at said second telephone interface in response to said indicating.

50. (new) The method of claim 49 further comprising blocking said offhook signal from appearing at said first telephone interface so that said first telephone interface is said maintained in said on-hook state.

51. (new) The method of claim 50 further comprising presenting a state to said second telephone interface that appears to said SCCS as if a calling device that caused said ring signal to appear at said first telephone interface has responded to said offhook signal so as to complete a connection between said telephone and said calling device.

52. (new) The method of claim 51 wherein said presenting further comprises blocking said indicating to said SCCS at said second telephone interface.

53. (new) The method of claim 52 wherein said presenting further comprises providing an artifical loop current to said SCCS at said second telephone interface.

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54. (new) The method of claim 53 wherein, if said ring signal is removed, said artificial loop current is removed.

55. (new) The method of claim 54 wherein said SCCS terminates said call in response to said removal of said artificial loop current.

56. (new) The method of claim 50 wherein, if said call is answered at said remote telephone interface, said offhook signal from said SCCS at said second telephone interface is no longer blocked so as to propagate to said first telephone interface.

57. (new) The method of claim 44 wherein said ring signal further comprises a ringing voltage.

58. (new) The method of claim 44 wherein said ring signal further comprises a tip-ground signal.

59. (new) The method of claim 44 wherein said first telephone interface is connected to a PBX.

60. (new) The method of claim 44 wherein said packet data network further comprises an Internet Protocol (IP) network.

61. (new) The method of claim 44 wherein said packet data network further comprises a Frame Relay network.

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62. (new) The method of claim 44 wherein said packet data network further comprises a High level Data Link Control (HDLC) network.

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63. (new) The method of claim 44 wherein said packet data network further comprises an Asynchronous Transfer Mode (ATM) network.

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64. (new) A method that implements forwarding on ring-no-answer with a remote telephone extension over a packet data network, said packet data network communicatively coupling a remote telephone interface to a telephone interface control system, wherein said telephone interface control system further comprises:

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a) a first telephone interface for external connection to said telephone interface control system;
b) a switched call control system (SCCS) that communicates to said remote telephone interface over said packet data network, wherein, said SCCS maintains control over a second telephone interface;

said method comprising:

a) directing a ring signal to said first telephone interface from a source that is external to said telephone interface control system, said directing in response to a calling device's attempt to establish a connection to said remote telephone interface;
b) indicating to said SCCS at said second telephone interface that said ring signal is appearing at said first telephone interface;

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c) initiating a call, over said packet data network, from said SCCS to said remote telephone interface; while, maintaining said first telephone interface in an on-hook state; and

d) removing said ring signal at said first telephone interface in response to a decision that said calling device's attempt was not answered at said remote telephone interface; and, forwarding said calling device's attempt to another location.

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65. (new) The method of claim 64 wherein said first telephone interface is an FXO interface.

66. (new) The method of claim 64 wherein said SCCS emulates a device that is tie-lined to said remote telephone interface.

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67. (new) The method of claim 66 wherein said call is implemented with a Private Line Automatic Ringdown (PLAR) call.

68. (new) The method of claim 66 wherein said SCCS also initiates an off-hook signal at said second telephone interface in response to said indicating.

69. (new) The method of claim 64 wherein said SCCS initiates an off-hook signal at said second telephone interface as a consequence of said indicating.

70. (new) The method of claim 69 further comprising blocking said offhook signal from appearing at said first telephone interface so that said first telephone interface is said maintained in said on-hook state.

71. (new) The method of claim 70 further comprising presenting a state to said second telephone interface that appears to said SCCS as if said calling device has responded to said offhook signal so as to complete a connection between said telephone and said calling device.

72. (new) The method of claim 71 wherein said presenting further comprises blocking said indicating to said SCCS at said second telephone interface.

73. (new) The method of claim 72 wherein said presenting further comprises providing an artificial loop current to said SCCS at said second telephone interface.

74. (new) The method of claim 73 wherein, after said ring signal is said removed at said first interface, said artificial loop current is removed.

75. (new) The method of claim 74 wherein said SCCS terminates said call in response to said removal of said artificial loop current.

76. (new) The method of claim 64 wherein said ring signal further comprises a ringing voltage.

77. (new) The method of claim 64 wherein said ring signal further comprises a tip-ground signal.

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78. (new) The method of claim 64 wherein said first telephone interface is connected to a PBX.

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79. (new) The method of claim 64 wherein said forwarding further comprises forwarding said calling device's attempt to a voice mail system.

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80. (new) The method of claim 64 wherein said packet data network further comprises an Internet Protocol (IP) network.

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81. (new) The method of claim 64 wherein said packet data network further comprises a Frame Relay network.

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82. (new) The method of claim 64 wherein said packet data network further comprises a High level Data Link Control (HDLC) network.

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83. (new) The method of claim 64 wherein said packet data network further comprises an Asynchronous Transfer Mode (ATM) network.

84. (new) A method for controlling the signaling between a first telephone interface and a second telephone interface, said method comprising:

a) indicating to said second telephone interface that a ring signal is appearing at said first telephone interface;

b) blocking an off-hook signal that appeared at said second telephone interface as a consequence of said indicating so that said off hook

signal does not appear at said first telephone interface such that said first telephone interface is maintained in an on hook state;

c) blocking said indicating to said second telephone interface in response to said off hook signal and providing an artificial loop current to said second telephone interface in response to said off hook signal.

85. (new) The method of claim 84 wherein, in response to said ring signal being removed at said first interface, said artificial loop current is removed at said second telephone interface.

86. (new) The method of claim 85 further comprising, presenting an on hook signal at said first telephone interface in response to an on-hook signal that appeared at said second telephone interface as a consequence of said artificial loop current being removed.

87. (new) The method of claim 84 further comprising forwarding said off-hook signal from said second telephone interface to said first telephone interface in response to a far end answer indication appearing at said second telephone interface.

88. (new) The method of claim 87 further comprising forwarding an actual loop current signal from said first telephone interface to said second telephone interface in response to said far end answer indication.

COMMENTS

The enclosed is responsive to the Examiner's Office Action mailed on December 17, 2001. At the time of mailing of the aforementioned Office Action, claims 1 through 43 were pending, claims 1,2,18,19, 30 and 31 were rejected; and, claims 3 through 17, 20 through 29 and 32 through 43 were objected to. In response, the Applicant has canceled claims 1 through 43 without prejudice and has added new claims 44 through 88. The Applicant thanks the Examiner for his objection to claims 3 through 17, 20 through 29 and 32 through 43. The Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the present application and the allowance of claims 44 through 88.

With regard to new claims 44 through 88, the Examiner is invited to refer to page 58, line 14 through page 65, line 6 of the present application. Note that the discussion therein makes reference to Figures 42, 43 and 44. In light of the portion of the present application that was highlighted just above; and, with respect to new claims 44 through 88 (as well as canceled claims 1 through 43), note that references are made to specific signals that appear at a first and/or a second telephone interface. Here, after a careful review of U.S Pat. No. 6,118,864 (hereinafter "Chang et. al."), which was used as a basis of rejection for claims 1,2,18, and 30, it appears that Chang et al is lacking with respect to this level of detail. As such, the Applicant believes new claims 44 through 88 to be patentable over Chang et al and respectfully, requests the allowance of same.